

Lightning Warrior Dispatch

Spring 2002



Serving the 93rd Signal Brigade Family



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Front Cover:



**63rd soldiers set up site for STX
training during their March
Situational Training Exercise
Exerise**

Brigade Commander – Col. Daniel M. Gerstein
Public Affairs Officer – Capt. Shirley Tyra

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COL Daniel Gerstein

... Deployments to eight Central and South American nations, Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) and support for the Olympics ... 98% of Signal teams/crews and 100% of the maintenance teams qualified on the last Situational Training Exercise (STX) ... outstanding performance on a FORSCOM Inspector General (IG) inspection, support for the Special Olympics, fielding of nine data packages which include classified and unclassified network capabilities and VTCs ... training brief to the Commanding General, Army Signal Command ... development of a unit Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) capability in the brigade ... a great Valentine's Day Formal ... ***What do all these have in common?***

Each of these successes was accomplished by the great soldiers, civilians and families of the 93rd Signal Brigade. The success the brigade has enjoyed is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication that has gone into the last quarter. As I walk through the brigade areas and talk to our personnel, I continue to be impressed and humbled by the tremendous progress that has been made. It is not too long ago that I was told that our Line-of-Site (LOS) antennas could not be set up in a three hour period, yet now I see our best teams erecting these systems in under an hour. To me, this represents a lesson in leadership — if you challenge soldiers with tough realistic standards, allow time

Voice of the Commander

for proper training and rehearsals, soldiers and leaders will never fail to accomplish the mission. It is the strength of our Army, and it is the strength of our nation.

In January, CSM Scandrick and I had the opportunity to brief the FORSCOM Commander, General Ellis on our brigade's training plan and then in March we briefed the plan to MG Hylton, the Commanding General of Army Signal Command (ASC). In both of these briefings, the message coming back from the senior leadership was clear — the brigade's training program is on track and sets the standard for FORSCOM and ASC. As part of the training brief to the ASC Commander, we talked about the plan for the 3rd Quarter and established the following priorities for the brigade: preparing for the mission essential tasks of deploying the force and protecting the force.

As we focus on *deploying the force*, we are going to work hard to develop and sustain a quarterly program of Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) for the brigade. It will be a full team effort with the brigade staff leading the way. In the end, we will be able to greatly reduce predeployment SRP requirements. We are also going to focus on other deployment tasks such as training Unit Movement Officers (UMOs) and developing expertise in deploying the force by rail, sea, air and road. Another focus must be our Unit Readiness Groups (URGs). The time to make these preparations is now.

Our focus areas for *protect the force* initiatives will include training our NBC teams and improving (and in some cases developing) "infantry-type" skills that would be essential for any modern battlefield. We must make a collective effort on training individual soldiers and

units in these common protect the force skills. I also want to highlight the need for continued focus on safety and incorporating personal risk assessments into all that we do. Our record in this area is outstanding, but there is always room for improvement.

I want to close with a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt ... "It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better, the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthwhile cause; who at best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." ... that sounds like an American soldier to me, on point for the nation, willing to take the challenge and makes things happen.

LIGHTNING WARRIOR!!



Photo by Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig Bde
SPC Hammond and PFC Anderson, HHC 93rd Sig Co were battle buddies during 93rd's February - March STX



Soldier to Soldier

***If you don't
want to hear the
answers, don't
ask the
questions.....***

***Command Sgt. Maj.
Paul E. Scandrick***

Have you ever complained about the quality of our soldiers?

Over the past twenty-eight years that I have served in the Army, I've heard complaints about the quality of our soldiers. These complaints have always been with the comparison of the soldiers of the past. I hear soldiers talk about how great the units were that they served in during the past, compared to the units they are currently members of. They also talk about how much better soldiers of the past were compared to today's soldiers.

When I hear these comments, I respond with the following: "You must remember that you will go to war as a member of the unit you are in, not as a member of the unit you were previously in...and most of all, remember that you will not go to war with yesterday's soldier, or with tomorrow's soldier, you will go to war with today's soldier. Today's soldier has always answered our nation's call, and completed every mission, second to none.

Are noncommissioned officers important leaders in the United States Army?

We must recognize why noncommissioned officers are very important leaders in the army. It is not because we outnumber the officer leadership, which we do. It is not because we "conduct the daily business of the Army" and our units, which we do. It is because of

our caring leadership style. As the enlisted leadership, we are always there. Because we are always there, junior enlisted soldiers expect more from us. They expect us to understand them, to help them, to suffer with them and if necessary, to live or die in combat with them. We are theirs and they are ours. They are what we are and we are what they have made us. There are officers and noncommissioned officers that consider themselves a success. Those that consider this should never forget that they are a product of successful soldiers that served with them.

Are we actually communicating?

We all need to communicate to accomplish our respective missions, and e-mail has become part of the daily routine for most of us. However, this "routine" has usually led to fewer personal interactions between members of our respective teams and us. The speed and ease in communicating via e-mail have certainly become quite popular. We now send notes to our fellow office members across the room versus turning around and simply speaking with them. We just push "send" and move on to other tasks assuming the communication process is complete. E-mail lulls the sender into a false sense of security, as we believe hitting the "send" button completes the communication process. Also, there is currently an expectation that people read all of their e-mail every day. This expectation is unrealistic, because some people may be attending to other important tasks (i.e.

supervising soldiers) away from their desks and aren't receiving or responding to messages in a timely manner.

You can ensure the communication process is complete through a variety of methods; however face-to-face communication and some direct supervision or subordinate interactions is very important. And yes, e-mail fits into this equation.

How many Sergeants does a soldier need?

I would like to quote an unknown author: "every soldier has a sergeant, nothing new, nothing changed, except the realization that some soldier problems are caused by soldiers having several sergeants that vary in grade from commissioned officer to sergeant, and the soldier is confused by which instructions to follow or orders to accept. The title is sufficient, "every soldier has a sergeant"...and one good sergeant is all a soldier needs."

"Lightning Warriors of Excellence"



Photo by Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig Bde

Issumagijoungnainermik!

By CPT James May
67th Signal Battalion Chaplain

Have you ever taken the time to think about the many ways that Issumagijoungnainermik affects your ability to lead soldiers? Probably not! Some may even doubt the existence of such a word, but trust me, the word is real. In fact, for those who attended this month's "Senior Leader Luncheon" in the DFAC, they not only learned the meaning of this mouth-full of a word, but they also learned how it helps them become better leaders.

Each month, the leadership from the 67th Signal Battalion conducts a "Senior Leader Luncheon" in the DFAC, sponsored by the chaplain. It is a pause in the midst of some busy schedules to come together and enjoy some physical and spiritual food as leaders. On the first Wednesday of each month a Bible study is conducted in the Dining Facility, targeting the leadership of the Battalion. While all are invited, this Bible study is

primarily designed to address the issues affecting those in leadership positions in the unit.

The theme for the Bible study has been, "A Biblical Look at the Army Values". Each month a different Army Value is discussed in the context of the Bible. What does the Bible say about issues such as Loyalty, Duty or Respect? Does the Bible give any guidance regarding Honor, Integrity or Personal Courage? Once the Army Value is studied from a biblical context, application is then made to the leading of soldiers. How does Christ's example of Selfless Service illustrate how I should serve the soldiers in my unit? What is my duty as a Christian, and how does it impact my job as a leader of soldiers?

The Bible study serves other purposes as well. "It is great to be able to come together, for both the Bible study and for the camaraderie as the leadership in the battalion," says LTC Everett. "It is critical that we take this time each month to reflect upon these important

principles. It is great that we can do this in the dining facility, as well, where the soldiers can see their leadership placing a priority on the discussion of the Army Values".

Chaplain May states that the success of the "Senior Leader Luncheon" lies in the emphasis given to it by the senior leadership in his battalion. "Each month there is enough going on that any person at that table could have given an 'I'm just too busy' excuse. However, each of them understands the importance of spiritual growth if they are going to be an effective leader. They understand the importance of Army Values and they make the time, because it is a priority to them."

And so the question remains, "How does Issumagijoungnainermik affect my ability to lead soldiers?" To find out, join the 67th Signal Battalion next month in the dining facility for the Senior Leaders' Luncheon. Join us as we take "A Biblical Look at the Army Values".



Photo by James May Chalain 67Th Sig Bn

The Senior Leaders' luncheon focused on a number of areas, to include Camaraderie, Army Values, and Spiritual Growth, Attending the luncheon were CSM Pollard, MAJ Vines, CSM Rodrigues, and LT Felton.



Winners

Members of the Georgia Area #9 Special Olympic Games like the winners pictured at right will move on to compete in the State Games held in May at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. 67th Signal Battalion has hosted these games on Fort Gordon, Ga. for the past 13 years.

67th Signal helps Olympians go for Gold

By 2LT Ramsey
B Co, 67th Signal Battalion

The Georgia Area #9 Special Olympic Games have been held at Fort Gordon since 1984. Area #9 is made up of the 12 Georgia counties in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). For the past 13 years, 67th Signal Battalion, 93rd Signal Brigade has hosted the event.

This year's event took place on 27 March on lower Barton field. Over 930 participants from the surrounding areas; over 500 volunteers, mostly soldiers from 67th Sig. Bn; and family members gathered together for the occasion. The participants are winners from the local counties' board of education programs, ages 7 years and up, along with residents from the Gracewood State Hospital and Schools ranging in ages from 6 to 55 years old. Winners from these Games will move on to compete in the State Games held in May at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Let me win, but if I can't win, let me be brave in the attempt," is the offi-

cial oath of the Special Olympics. Participants this year competed for the ribbons in fourteen different events. Some of the running events included the 50-meter dash, the 100-meter dash, and the 400-meter dash. There were also other events such as developmental body bowling, the 25-meter tricycle race, and the 25-meter scooter race, to name a few. One 67th Sig Bn soldier stated that he enjoyed the 100-meter race the best. He added, "There are some excellent athletes out here." Jerry Sims, the Area #9 Civilian Event Coordinator, agreed. He said, "Everyone who competes is a winner."

To make an event of this magnitude successful requires a lot of planning. Each year Mr. Sims comes out and meets a military counterpart. To put this event together it basically takes two elements: 1) the great athletes competing in the events and 2) the soldiers, civilians, and local companies that support the event. Most of the coordination required is done during two meetings. The first meeting involves the Special Olympics civilian planners and FT Gordon repre-

sentatives meeting with the 67th Signal Battalion and establishes how many volunteers will be needed. In the second meeting we assign civilian coordinators to military volunteers, so the soldiers can learn their job and responsibilities during the event.

"Hosting the Special Olympics every year is a proud tradition in the 67th," said LTC Kari Everett, Commander of the 67th. "It is one of our major opportunities throughout the year to give back to the Augusta community on a large scale." One soldier said, "I like volunteering because it seems like a good deed, and I just wanted to help out." All the volunteers interviewed stated, "they would do it again just to see the joy on the athletes faces." Jerry Sims also said that it is easy to get volunteers to come and support this event every year here at Fort Gordon. We appreciate that."

If you do not get a chance to go to the Special Olympics this year, do not miss out next year.

"Let me win, but if I can't win, let me be brave in the attempt."

February - March Situational Training Exercise

by 1LT Michael Dalton
93rd Signal Brigade

93rd Signal Brigade conducted its quarterly Situational Training Exercise (STX) from 24 Feb - 1 Mar 02. The 63rd, 67th and 56th Signal battalions combined efforts to produce an outstanding 98% overall qualification record.

STX is designed to train and certify the Brigade's LOS, TACSAT, Switch, and Maintenance teams. Teams must complete their mission in accordance with ARTEP standards. In addition to training to standard, teams are given the opportunity to qualify as expert, sharpshooter, or marksman. This qualification is based on completion of mission to standard and time.

Lightning Warriors are proud to have 7 experts, 5 sharpshooters, and 22 marksmen as trained and ready to install, operate, and maintain communications worldwide. STX will continue to be a quarterly,culminating focus to determine the validation of training and team readiness.

SCCC Class visits STX training

By LTC Stephen Jurinko
93rd Signal Brigade Deputy Commander

During the 93d Signal Brigade's February Situation Training Exercise (STX), COL Gerstein the brigade commander played host for 14 captains from the Signal Captain Career Course (SCCC). COL Gerstein is a mentor for the current class.

As part of the mentorship program, COL Gerstein invited the class to observe the brigade's STX operation in a field environment. During their visit, COL Gerstein took the opportunity to explain his background, experiences, and command philosophy and how it prepared him to lead the 93rd. During the visit, he discussed what it takes to be



Photo by Capt. Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.

successful in company command and staff assignments. He explained the importance of providing tough realistic training based on ARTEP standards for soldiers, taking care of soldiers, maintaining your equipment, and keeping good accountability of personnel and equipment. As part of the visit, the future company commanders and staff officers visited the brigade System Control/Administrative Logistic Operation Center (SYSCON/ALOC) and one of the battalion BATCON's to learn more about future assignments and responsibilities.

In the future, COL Gerstein will conduct seminars and serve as a keynote speaker for the SCCC class.



Photo by Capt. Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.

February - March STX



Photo By Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.



Photo By Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.

Left, two soldiers erect an antenna. Above, two 67TH Sig Bn soldier train on the use of the Pluggger. Below, the Brigade Tactical Operations Center resembles a giant, green-eyed chameleon.



Photo By Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.

April

BDE

- Masters Week 8-12
- FT Gordon BCTP 4-5 Apr
- BDECI 3
- BDE Re-Up Brief 9
- BDE Run 24
- Post Organization Day-26
- PPET 9-11
- USR
- BDEAT AEX 1-5
- FMTV Upgrade 11 Mar - 19 Apr

56th

- Tradewinds Antigua 6-26
- Recovery 29-3
- PKO North Re 6-10
- Safety Day-10/14
- MD Bolivia 12-27
- MD 3
- USACCSLA Audit (56th) 4-5 Apr
- NH Nicargua 14 Jan - 23 May
- UDCP CC 14-1
- NH El Salvador 15 Jan - 15 May

63rd

- NCO/OPD 4
- BSP
- NCO/OPD 18
- Red Cycle 4-10
- BDE DATAEX 1-5
- Company FTX 15-19
- M16 10
- FMTV Upgrade 11 Mar - 19 Apr
- Recovery 22-24
- BN Switch E BN FTX 13

67th

- PROM 3
- BDE DATAEX 1-5
- 18 BN OPD 24-25
- M16/M249 24-25
- BN Run/C 26
- RTF 22-26
- Newcomer's Brief 24
- Red Cycle 27-3
- CO Tng Window 6-10
- BS 21-2
- M16 BN 1
- PROM 8
- Red Cycle 11-17

To achieve the Vision, there are three positive priorities to strive for and three negatives to avoid ...

- Maintaining battle focus, Mission readiness
- Taking care of soldiers and families
- Building esprit

- Fatalities (accidents, suicides, casualties)
- Child and family abuse
- Breaches in ethics and morality

63rd Black military history program honors those who broke through color barriers

by Staff Sgt. Sharla McCrory
63rd Signal Battalion

On February 20, 2002, the 63D Signal Battalion hosted the 93D Signal Brigade's monthly EO event that provided significant insight on black history. As a part of the observance of African American/ Black History Month, Chief Petty Officer, United States Navy (Retired) Marshall Abuwi, the senior great-grandson of The Honorable Booker T. Washington, an American Educator and Founder of Tuskegee University was invited as the guest speaker.

In celebration of the Department of Defense's theme, "The African American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America's Defense," Mr. Abuwi enlightened the audience on the origin of the Officer's Training Program developed at Tuskegee and the many accomplishments of the University and its famed Tuskegee Airmen who contributed to America's successful defense. He spoke of the many obstacles that Tuskegee airman had to overcome during the World War II era. He also stated that the "Tuskegee Experiment" achieved unqualified success rather than the expected failure as be-

lieved by senior leadership. This is further recorded by the elevation of one of the first pioneers to the rank of General, the late General Daniel Chappie James, and our nation's first Black Four-Star General. After this great achievement, many others followed such as Lieutenant General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., USAF Retired; and Major General Lucius Theus, USAF, Retired.

Other major achievements to enhance and enrich our military heritage are attributed to many Tuskegee Airmen who supported the aircrews as maintenance and supply personnel and other ground support duties. Through the endeavors of all these persons, Mr. Abuwi left all with his motto to remember, "No dream is too small; and no challenge is too great."

As a special edition to the program, a member of the Fort Gordon community, Mrs. Judith Butler delivered a dramatic interpretation of "The Creation" written by James Weldon Johnson, poet and author of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Mrs. Butler and Mr. Abuwi both left a formidable impression on all in attendance.



"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed".

"Human salvation lies in the hand of the creatively maladjusted".

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that".

Martin Luther King Jr.

63rd Black History Program

About the Poet

Judith A.C. Butler grew up in Norfolk, VA., the fifth youngest of seven girls. After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School, she joined the U.S. Army and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon. Judith has been assigned to various assignments to include Korea and Germany.

After 20 years of service, she retired and has spent her last six years as a technical instructor with General Dynamics, command, control, communication and computer Systems.

She holds an associates degree and various technical certifications and is currently enrolled in Augusta Technical College and she, Judith enjoys writing, public speaking, reading, music, and running.

Her first book entitled "You Touched My Life" will be released early this year. She is married and the mother of two daughters age 19 and 16.

Marshall Musa Muslim Abuwi biography

Marshall Musa Muslim Abuwi is the senior great-grandson, and eldest male descendant of Booker T. Washington, author of Up From Slavery, and founder of Tuskegee University.

Abuwi holds an associate in arts degree in Humanities from Los Angeles Metropolitan College and a bachelor of arts degree in History from Columbia Pacific University. He is currently enrolled in the University of Maryland, where he is pursuing a second B. A. in English Literature.

Marshall Abuwi retired from the U.S. Navy in July 2001 after completing 30 years service. While in the Navy he served as a communications officer and training officer.

He also directed the Los Angeles Metropolitan College Overseas Program while he was stationed in Antigua, British West Indies from 1980-1982.

He now serves as the Islamic minister or Imam for Fort Gordon, and is a self-employed insurance agent.

In addition to his career in family and small business financial services, Marshall Abuwi is also a widely sought-after motivational speaker.

He is the author of Overcoming the Mental Atrophy that Results From the Requirement to Conform To a Suffocating Environment. (Columbia Pacific University, Mill Valley, CA: 1983).

Mr. Abuwi was born at the Tuskegee Army Air Field near Tuskegee Institute, Ala. He is 57 years old, married and the father of one son, age 30.

He attended elementary and junior high schools in Tuskegee.

In 1957, Marshall Abuwi was designated as an Eagle Scout by the Boys Scouts of America.

In 1958, he entered the Saint Emma Military Academy near Richmond, Va., where he graduated with highest honors in June 1961.

He was offered admission to the University of California at Berkeley, Princeton and Yale universities, as well as Tuskegee University, Xavier University and Morehouse College.

He attended Tuskegee University for two years before transferring to the University of California at Berkeley, where he studied American History.

At Tuskegee, he served as President of his class. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Muslim American Society.

He is a recipient of three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

In 1983, Marshall Musa Muslim Abuwi was awarded an honorary commission as a Lieutenant Colonel by the governor of the State of Alabama.

As a motivational speaker, Mr. Abuwi lectures on character building, and goal setting and achievement. His motto is "No dream is too small; no challenge is too great."

He promotes the wisdom of his famous great-grandfather, Booker T. Washington, in all of his speeches.

Improvised explosive devices await unwary

by Staff Sgt. Kent McQueen
93rd Signal Brigade

Bombs are the number one terrorists' tactic of choice. Also known as Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), bombs are cheap, low risk to the perpetrator, and can produce catastrophic results (i.e. the Murrah building in Oklahoma City).

Bombs are attention-getters with two purposes -- kill personnel and destroy property. Bombs may be explosive or incendiary (flame producing).

Since there are many different types of bombs, based on size and complexity, they may be placed anywhere. Bombs can be as small as a cigarette package or as large as a semi-trailer.

The information to make an explosive device is readily available. Some of the "recipes" found in books or on-line require very little experience to produce. The more complex devices require a working knowledge of pyrotechnics and creativity.

They may be employed against a number of targets; residences where the occupants are complacent, public buildings and utilities (water, gas, and electric services), vehicles; schools, businesses, and military installations. Other places may include dumpsters, closets, or any place you imagine.

To protect yourself, you must be aware of the potential to be a target. Second, know your home, car, and workplace. If you know what looks normal it should be easy to spot something that is wrong or out of place. Take notice of your surroundings frequently.

If you happen to ever find a bomb or receive a bomb threat remain calm. Even though it sounds corny you probably won't be much use to anyone if you become excited.

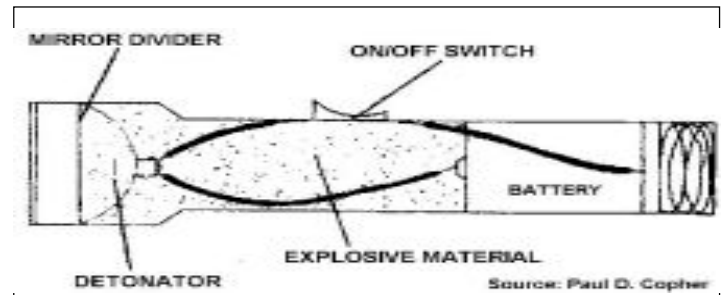
If you find a bomb, do not touch! Mark off the area; notify your supervisor or anyone who can contact EOD. In a civilian situation, notify the police.

If you receive a bomb threat by telephone, pay close attention to the caller's voice and background noises. They may provide clues about the perpetrator. Make sure you write all the information down to be reported to the proper authority. Typically, an organized bomb search team will take over and you will probably be evacuated from the building.

The evacuation should be orderly. Generally, personnel should follow the fire escape plan when evacuating. Above all, everybody should remain calm.

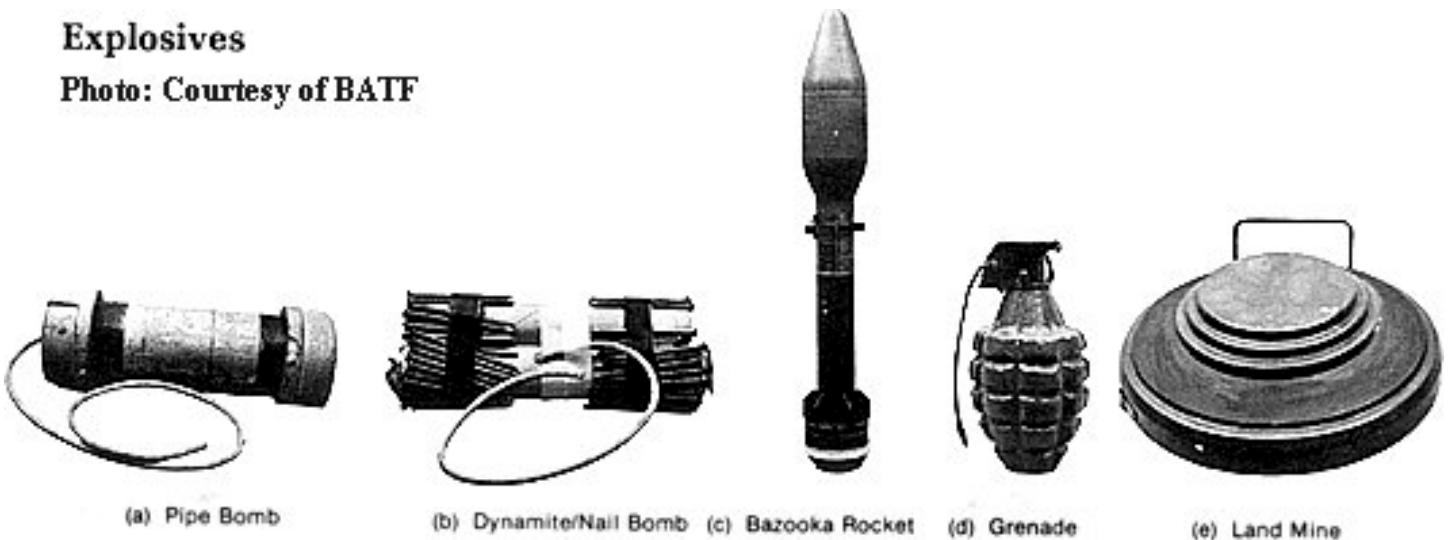
Rally points should not be near dumpsters, drainage grates, or any other place where a second bomb may be hidden.

Until next time, stay alert and stay alive.



Explosives

Photo: Courtesy of BATF



(a) Pipe Bomb

(b) Dynamite/Nail Bomb

(c) Bazooka Rocket

(d) Grenade

(e) Land Mine



Members of A Co., 63rd Signal Battalion and Range Control demonstrate chainsaw safety.

It's an NCO's Job!

by Ashley Goodrum
Brigade Safety Officer

YOU! That's right. You are the NCO Corps. Soldiers work for you. Soldiers listen to you. Why? Because you've been where they are.

Too many soldiers are killed and injured each year in preventable accidents.

What can you do about it? As the primary leader of your soldiers, each of you must take a personal and active role in accident prevention. You must set the standards and ensure your soldiers follow those standards.

You must ensure risk management is being used in every operation. With your help, the Army can save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce equipment losses; plus improve training.

Sometimes people forget just how influential the NCO Corps is. If you take on a mission, you can bet it will get done right and safely.

The only way for the Army to stop accidents on-and off-duty is for the NCO Corps to get smart on the policies and procedures within the 93rd Signal Brigade, FORSCOM, ASC, etc. You can do this by enforcing standards at the worksite

and by letting your soldiers know you are concerned about their safety.

None of you will save a soldier's life or prevent a soldier's injury unless **YOU**, squad leaders through sergeants major, set the example and demand that safety be part of the everyday life of your soldiers.

When you have your daily squad or platoon meeting, let your soldiers know the hazards associated with the tasks they will be doing that day and what safety precautions they need to take. Inspect your soldiers before they start a task to ensure they're wearing all required equipment needed for the job. Make sure you personally know that a soldier knows how to safely operate equipment or motor vehicle before tasking the soldier to use it. Above all, ensure your soldiers are fully trained to perform the job you are tasking them to do, and supervise them.

While walking around the unit in garrison or at field sites, take the time to make on-the-spot corrections. Tell soldiers why you are correcting them. If they know why you are correcting them and that you care about them, then they will care enough to remember.

Remember, soldier safety depends on the NCO. The Army Safety Program depends on the NCO. It's your job, and young soldiers will do whatever you emphasize.

SAFETY FIRST!

Top Signal Command NCO leads the way



Photo by Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig Bde

During 67th Signal Battalion Soldier's Time, this soldier explains to CSM Paylor, U.S. Army Signal Command Command Sergeant Major, the correct way to prepare a range card.



Photo by Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig Bde.

CSM Pollard, 63rd Signal Battalion and his 1SG's give CSM Paylor a tour of their motor pool.



Photo by Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig Bde.

CSM Larry Paylor takes time to visit with soldiers during soldier's time at the 67th Battalion.



Photo by Capt Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig Bde

A 63rd Signal Battalion soldier demonstrates MOPP Level 4 during Soldier's Time.

General Hylton presents the Commanding Generals Award for Maintenance Excellence Award to soldiers from 63rd Signal Battalion



Photo by Capt Shirley Tyra, 93rd Sig. Bde

1LT William Griffin, 1LT Jared Bondeson, SFC Wilbur Bass, And 1SG Tyrone Smoot, accept the Commanding Generals Award for Maintenance Excellence Award Fiscal Year 2001

Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act

By MAJ Michael M. Mejia
Brigade Trial Counsel

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (SSCRA), as amended, was passed by Congress to provide legal protections for persons entering or called to active duty in the US Armed Forces. When in active federal service, reservists and members of the Nation Guard are also protected. The protections generally begin with the date of entering AD, as shown by official orders, and end upon release from active duty.

Quick highlights of the protections afforded service members, include:

Termination of Pre-Service Lease Agreements—a service member who is leasing/renting property used for dwelling, professional, business, agricultural or similar purposes may terminate a lease that was (1) signed *before* the service member entered or reported for active duty and (2) the rented premises has been occupied for the above stated reasons by the service member or his dependents. The service member must still deliver written notice, along with copies of all official military orders, to the landlord, within 30 days.

Eviction from Leased Housing—the service member can seek protection from summary eviction under SSCRA, that is, the landlord cannot lock you out of your rented apartment without having gone to court first. Specifically, the leased property must be occupied by the service member or his dependents for the purpose of housing, and the rent cannot exceed \$1,200. A service member receiving notice of an evic-

tion must invoke the protections of SSCRA by submitting a request to the court. If the court finds that the service member's duties have materially affected his ability to pay his rent timely, the court may order a stay or postponement of the eviction for up to 3 months or make any other "just" order.

Reduce Interest Rate to 6%—if a service member's entry onto active service has materially affected his ability to pay on his financial obligations, such as credit cards, loan, or a mortgage, then he can have the interest rate capped at 6% for the duration of his military obligation. Qualifying debts must have been incurred *prior* to the service member reporting to active duty and the service member's military obligation has materially affected his ability to make payments. Note that this protection under SSCRA does NOT apply to federally guaranteed student loans. The service member should inform the creditor in writing invoking the protection and attach a copy of his official military orders.

Delay in Civil Court Proceedings—a service member who is either a plaintiff or defendant in a civil lawsuit can request a delay or postponement of the proceeding until he is able to adequately contact an attorney and prepare his case. This protection applies only to civil lawsuits and does not apply to criminal proceedings or administrative hearings. The service member should have his commander write a letter to the court invoking this protection and provide a date when the service member will be prepared to respond or appear in court.

If you have any questions regarding your rights under SSCRA, contact the main post legal assistance office at 791-7883 or 7812.

93rd Goes to the Field

By Pfc. Zoe Morris
Staff Writer

The 93rd Signal Brigade conducted a Situational Training Exercise Feb. 25 - March 1. "This STX is designed so we can go out and actually qualify on what we do on a daily basis," said Sgt. 1st Class Fritz Smith, Company B., 63rd Signal Brigade Area Node platoon leader.

The mission of the 93rd Signal Battalion, which is comprised of 56th, 63rd and the 67th Signal Battalions as well as Headquarters and Headquarters Company and one Army Signal Activity, is to deploy worldwide to install, operate and maintain theater tactical communications in support of joint and combined operations across the spectrum of conflict, providing contingency support for all commanders in chief.

In order to be ready to deploy and carry out that mission on a moment's notice, the 93rd goes into the field every quarter, to keep within a "band of excellence." There are different teams in the field. Each provides a different service. Pfc. Brian Thuermer, Co. C, 63rd Sig. Bn., was part of an extension mode during the STX. "Our main objective is to set up

communications between ... us and our distant end, and we're suppose to be able to send data through our routers and the antenna," Thuermer said.

According to Thuermer, at each different site, the three-man extension team has to camouflage the trucks, set up generators, pound in ground rods and set up the antenna (an AB13O9), in less than three hours.

The teams "jumped," or moved to a new site, an average of two times in the week. Each team must qualify, so if it doesn't on the first try, it must jump and try until it does qualify.

The ability to set up quickly in a training environment is important, Smith said, because if you can't do in training, there is no way you can do it in a real combat situation. "If we can't get it done right here now, than there's nowhere in the world we can get it done," Smith said. "When we're called into one of those places, someone's really going to need us, someone's life is going to depend on communications that we provide." This, said Smith, is why training in the cold weather Fort Gordon experienced during that week is also important. "You don't know what that environment's going to be, for the most part," he said.

"Sometimes it's going to be a hot environment ... and sometimes it's going to dip way below that freezing level, so you pretty much make sure you're trained up for all those environments when you get called to go (and do your job)."

Good and quick communications between troops in wartime has always been a vital part of winning the war. The civil war used telegraphs, as well as hand-delivered messages. World Wars I and II saw the Signal Corps' new tactical FM radio and radar. These two items were the most important communications development of World War II.

In today's Army, communication still plays a vital role. Right now people want a lot of data equipment, Smith said. A lot of people want to be able to pick up their e-mail when they get to the field, send stuff back and forth.

"(The 93rd) provides a lot of that communication stuff for them right now," Smith said. "In the battlefield, the quicker you get information, the better you are equipped to actually deal with what's coming at you and react to it more efficiently."

The STX simulates a time when fast communication is necessary. Different units situated themselves on various sites around Fort Gordon. All the sites were tied together with antennas, according to Smith. The set-up is like a telephone system, he said, providing the communications that an actual telephone system would. All the Internet capabilities are tied into the field environment the 93rd created.



Hook up!

Master Sgt. Steward Webster, from the brigade logistics section, completes a contact mission with Company B, 63rd Signal Battalion, during the brigade's maintenance certification. He is showing the soldiers how to hook the vehicle to the wrecker.

Maj Gerogetta Bennett-Attaway
93rd Signal Brigade S-4



Soldiers from 63rd and 93rd Signal battalions learn about methods for managing a single-parent lifestyle during a workshop conducted by the 63rd Sig. Bn. chaplain's office.

Single Parent Workshop ("Never a Day Off")

by Ch. (Capt.) Brian Mead
63rd Signal. Battalion Chaplain

Right now in the United States there are over 12 million single parent households with over 20 million children under the age of 18 years old. That translates to about 28% of all U.S. homes. Being a single parent is becoming more commonplace in society and the military is no exception to this. The army reports that about 36,000 soldiers are single parents with 6.8% of all female soldiers and 3.1% of all male soldiers making up this unique group.

As battalion chaplain to the 63rd Signal Battalion, it was observed that there was a direct need for providing additional ministry and support to single parent soldiers. With command support, the Chaplain's office was able to meet with a few single parents to receive input on the type of training and information that would be beneficial for our single parents. The information received back in January was tremendous and overwhelming. Our single parents expressed a need for financial training, budgeting, child rearing, discipline, Family Care Plans, and finding time for relationships.

With this information, the Chaplain's office set up the first Single Parent Workshop for the 63rd Signal Battalion and the 93rd Signal Brigade. The theme of our workshop was, "Never A Day Off" and was conducted on Friday, 15 March at Bicentennial Chapel. Over two-dozen single parents were in attendance and representatives from different post agencies were invited to help train our soldiers. Joann Brassell from Army Community Service came and instructed

a training session entitled, "Financial Training for the Single Parent." Chaplain (MAJ) Rich Bendorf, the Family Life Chaplain, provided information on "The Single Parent and The Dating Relationship." Lisa Flournoy of Family Advocacy centered in on teaching "Family Foundations." Lastly, Chaplain Davies, 93rd Signal Brigade, Chaplain May, 67th Signal Battalion, and Chaplain Mead, 63rd Signal Battalion, conducted classes on "Children & Discipline."

From this training two extremely helpful insights and ideas arose. The first was the need for helping our single parents develop not just the basic Family Care Plan (FCP), but also one that addressed additional unique needs. Handouts and tip sheets with listings of web sites and additional information on improving FCPs were handed out to each parent.

The second idea was the implementation of a mini support group for the single parents. This idea is in the early stages, but the single parents plans are to meet and discuss issues that impact their lives in the military and how to overcome these obstacles. Information sheets were circulated to each single parent containing basic information about creating support groups.

The training day was fun and the bonding of these wonderful parents made it more than worth the effort. Each single parent received a copy of the book, "Parenting On Your Own" which is packed with many tips and ideas on how to survive as a single parent. We have additional copies of this book. If you would like a copy, please contact the Chaplain's office.

Reserve and National Guard answer call to arms

by Capt. Dane Snowden

93rd Signal Brigade

The terrorist attack on Sept. 11th was not only an attack on the United States but a "Call To Arms" to the most powerful nation in the world.

I received notice of the attack via a fellow worker in Cleveland, Tenn. As all the employees began receiving word of the attacks the managers turned on the televisions to watch the nations next move and monitor if any employees were on any of the flights. I'll always remember this as my official call to duty.

On Dec. 18, during my vacation in south Florida, I received a phone call from the 78th Troop Command in Atlanta.

People always ask how I felt when I received my call. You could only imagine the grandest American flag flying in the wind that's how I felt as I continued my last days at home and notified my co-workers of my notice to active duty.

I traveled to Augusta through a snowstorm, Jan. 2, from my home in Ooltewah, TN to report to the 93rd Signal Brigade as the assistant brigade personnel officer.

The anxiety of reporting to an active duty unit was eased by the cordial and professional greetings from Capt. Stephen Beaumont, commander of the brigade headquarters company, and 1st Sgt. Steven Marchman, the HHC first sergeant.

They were constantly working on issues to make our transition as painless as possible. The problems we only thought we had were rapidly being fixed by different agencies on post along with the 81st Regional Support Group, 78th Troop Command, and the 878th Engineer Battalion in Augusta.

As a former company commander in the Georgia Army

National Guard, I understood the procedures and what was supposed to happen during post mobilization training.

The reality was unveiled during the next two weeks as we in-processed in the unit, certifying in the common task testing for enlisted personnel, primary marksmanship instruction, organizational equipment issue and our farewell speech as we depart to Fort Stewart, signifying our release to the 93rd and start of our duties.

On the 8th of January we received our send off from Col. Knighter, the 81st RSG commander, and welcome from Col. Daniel M. Gerstein, the 93rd brigade commander.

Even though our orders certified our activation the welcome uplifted our hearts with the pride of joining our active duty partners.

We completed our medical, dental, and personal record screening at the Soldier Readiness Check site along with hundreds of other units preparing for mobilization and deployments. With the amount of personnel being processed it was amazing to see the rapid pace the soldiers went through with very few glitches.

The final rite of passage came on the weapon's qualification range where some fired the 9mm pistol and others fired the M16A2, during day and night fire and NBC.

The brigade is made up of an eclectic group of citizen soldiers. An industrial electrician for a major candy company, chemistry professor from a military college, methodist minister, lawyers, software and security technicians, and correctional facility officers can all be found among them.

We all are leaving our families, friends, and civilian jobs behind to serve our country with great pride as our country's "Minutemen" have done before us.

67th Signal Company provides signal support in Utah

Submitted by 1LT Norine Miller

67th Signal Battalion

Company B, 67th Signal Battalion battled the elements as they conducted site set-up to install communications assets in support of the 5th Army Response Task Force – West in Utah.

Bulldawg Soldiers began their deployment by off-loading their equipment on a chilly four degree morning. Signal soldiers faced Old Man Winter head on when it came to grounding their equipment.

The hard frozen ground forced Spc. Levester, Spc. Tonelli and Spc. Trussell to resort to their pick ax and sledge hammer to successfully install ground rods. The final score was Old Man Winter-

2 (broken ground rods), Bulldawgs-4 (successfully placed ground rods).

Old Man Winter does not take losing lightly, soldiers had to brave the cold and start their vehicles every two hours just to keep them operational.

Despite the winter challenges, the Bulldawgs successfully installed their communications systems to support more than 30 telephones and a video conferencing system.

While deployed, the soldiers were also able to participate in the time-honored tradition of the running of the Olympic Torch, although the soldiers had to brave 12 degree weather this time.



Photo provided by 56th Signal Battalion

Students in the Teen Center complete assignments on the facility's new Internet link.

56th connects high school students

MAJ Bruce Holland
56th Signal Battalion XO

In November 2001, the 56th Signal Battalion was approached by the Director of Community Youth Services (CYS) with an urgent request. CYS needed Internet connectivity at the Teen Center before the end of the year.

The purpose of this request was to provide high school students the opportunity to do research and surf the Web.

The major issue in providing network connectivity and Internet access to all 19 computers and two printers in the building was timing. This project needed to be completed in five weeks.

Army regulations presented an initial hurdle because a Non-appropriated Fund organization must use its own resources to maintain operations.

The battalion helped CYS with engineer support, network connectivity, and configuration management assistance.

The configuration management section reviewed building plans, researched possible solutions and created a diagram to identify a quick and reliable communication solution for this unique project.

Because this building is not a military structure it couldn't be connected to our military wide area network so, the next solution was to find a commercial Internet Service Provider.

The answer was found in a Digital Subscriber Line or DSL.

It is a new, modem-based technology. One of the great advantages of DSL is that it uses the existing phone line. There is no need to add another line to get high-speed access to the Internet. The DSL modem separates voice signals from data signals.

Also, the connection to the Internet is direct and permanent, eliminating the typical delays from busy signals or connection time. This allows DSL end-users to browse the Internet at speeds up to 1.5 Mbps.

Under the supervision of the battalion's automation officer, tech control provided a direct telephone line to the building and configuration management contractors established the network connectivity in the building.

This project was completed within the five week time period and the high school students can enjoy this facility, surfing the Internet at any time.

252 Supports Southern Command

By 1LT (P) Richard Johnson
252nd Signal Company, 56th Signal
Battalion

The 252nd Signal Company deploys its assets throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean between January and June in support of US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) sponsored exercises. This year's exercises include New Horizons Engineer missions, Allied Force Humanitarian Exercises (FA-HUM), and Medical Readiness Training Exercises (MEDRETEs); the 252nd Signal Company has been given the privilege to represent the 93rd Signal Brigade and the United States Army Signal Command by providing reliable communication packages to a wide array of customers in this important area of operations.

January marks the conclusion of the rainy season in Central America and the beginning of both of this year's New Horizons (NH) exercises. NH Nicaragua, hosted by the Wisconsin Army National Guard, operates from a base camp set up approximately six hours east of Managua in the Chontales region of Nicaragua. The 252nd deployed a Medium size communication Package (TSC-93C and TTC-48) to the base camp nestled in the rain shadow of a mountain range. Even in the non-rainy season soldiers supporting this mission experience a heavy morning dew and daily rainfall. Fastidious hygiene and meticulous preventive maintenance counters the ill effects of high humidity.

The purpose of these exercises is to construct a number of roads, schools, clinics, and wells in under-

developed regions. The task force, comprised mostly of engineers, has a full complement of combat support and combat service support elements, such as medics, military police, aviation assets, and logistical and maintenance support personnel. While deployed the soldiers' day is similar to their comrades back at Fort Gordon. Daily Physical Training, recovery, breakfast at the MKT, a full workday of remote worksite support and performing before, during and after PMCS of on-hand equipment, dinner back at the base camp at the MKT, then it's cards and dominoes in the MWR tent until lights out. The base camp provides essential facilities and services, such as, showers, latrines, laundry facility, and a small PX trailer.

Located 2 hours southeast of San Salvador, outside of Usulután, NH El

Salvador is similar to NH Nicaragua in many ways. The 65th Reserve Support Command (RSC) from Puerto Rico hosts the exercise and staffs the base camp with supporting units, facilities and services. This exercise presented unique opportunities for the 35th Signal Battalion, part of the 65th RSC, to send some of its reserve Signal soldiers to participate with the 252nd. The Signal soldiers' daily routine mirrors that of those in Nicaragua. If it is possible for the soldiers' morale in El Salvador to be higher than that of those in Nicaragua perhaps it is because of the bi-weekly trips to the pristine secluded beaches 15 minutes away, or into nearby San Miguel.

The 252nd Signal Company's medium sized communication packages supporting these missions consist of an AN/TSC-93C Multi-chan-



Photo provide by CSM Paul Scandrick 93rd Sig Bde

COL Gerstein with SGT Olmedo in front of the 252nd Base Camp Commo tent

nel Satellite Radio (SATCOM) Terminal. This terminal provides the transmission path for all the services extended from the sustaining base communication facilities in the United States to both base camps. These shelters bring in services such as Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router (NIPR) and Secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR) access, and Defense Switch Network (DSN) trunks and loops to the base camps. The AN/TTC-48 Small Extension Node Switch (SENS) also deploys with the SATCOM as part of the package. The SENS provides tactical phones, common user DSN trunks for official and morale calls and a service called Combat Net Radio Interface (CNRI). CNRI allows calls between radios and telephone subscribers.

An example of a CNRI call is if an Engineer Platoon leader working at a remote worksite wants to request something from the Task Force J4 who is located back at the base camp; the PL would tune his radio to the published CNRI frequency and call the SENS operator and request a call to the J4's tactical phone number. The operator would dial the number of the J4 on his KY-90 Secure Digital Net Radio Interface Unit and wait for the J4 to answer. The operator would then explain to the J4 that he had a Radio Interface call, and to push the button on his tactical phone to talk and release to listen. Finally, the operator would remind the J4 to use correct radio procedures and, if the J4 had no questions, the operator would drop off and the PL and J4 would talk as if both were using a radio.

The soldiers that deploy with the SATCOM and SENS equipment are

MOS 31S (SATCOM Operator Maintainer) and 31F (Switching Systems Operator Maintainer). They work around the clock in shifts, monitoring the network and equipment, ensuring continuous service. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), 56th Signal Battalion and the 94th Signal Company, another company in the 56th Signal Battalion, augmented the 252nd with Local Area Network (LAN) capability including domain and file servers and 20 laptop computers. These services were also provided to both Nicaragua and El Salvador Task Force Commanders and Staffs. A mix of soldiers, MOS 74B (Information Systems Operator-Analyst), Department of the Army Civilians and Contractors from the HHD, 56th and 94th Signal Company deployed to install and maintain the LANs.

Another important part of the support that each of these large exercises receives from the 252nd comes in the form of Single Channel Tactical Satellite (SCTACSAT) radios and High Frequency (HF) Amplitude Modulated (AM) radios. These radios provide beyond Line of Sight (LOS) voice radio coverage. The soldiers that operate these special radios are MOS 31U (Signal Systems Maintainers). Both NH exercises depend on large LOS radio networks (net) that encompasses the entire area of operations and are comprised of numerous Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) Frequency Modulated (FM) radios. The radio nets help the Task Force Commander and J3 Operations Officer command and control the mobile units of the Task force. All 31U on site are not only

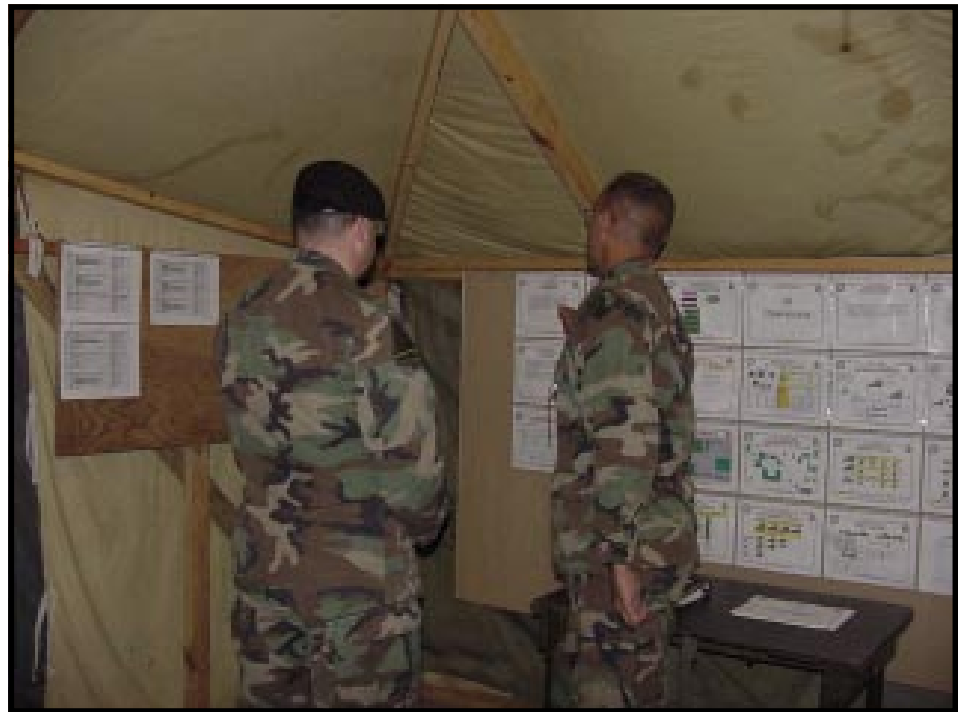


Photo provide by CSM Paul Scandrick 93rd Sig Bde

SFC Harris briefs COL Gerstein on the network diagram and the functions of the J-6, at his location.

responsible for the daily maintenance of their own equipment they also assist the Task Force with the maintenance of its vehicular mounted and base station FM assets. Mission NCOICs, SSG Sarah Goldstein in Nicaragua; and SFC Lance Harris in El Salvador, have expertly executed the task of coordinating all of these moving parts required to make the communication support for these exercises work. From the Pre-Deployment Checks and Test Shot Phase through Air loading equipment onto Air Force C-130 Airplanes in the Movement Phase all the way to the Redeployment and Recovery Phase, these NCOs have led and executed these five-month missions flawlessly.

Another SOUTHCOM exercise was FA HUM Honduras. This exercise, hosted and staffed by United States Army South (USARSO), brought delegates and representatives from 15 Caribbean and Central American nations to Tegucigalpa, Honduras for a two-week conference on disaster contingencies. The conference took place at the Honduran Military Academy from 23 February to 8 March 2002. SSG Curtis Oxendine, the mission NCOIC, deployed a commercial modular switch to support over 80 telephone subscribers at this exercise. The 67th Signal Battalion augmented the 252nd team by providing a SATCOM terminal from the 235th Signal Company, and a highly motivated cable team from C/67th. The tone and tenor of this exercise were much less harsh than that of the New Horizons exercises. The cadre supporting the conference, including the communication team, stayed in a hotel in downtown Tegucigalpa at night, and convoyed to the site daily.

Even so, without the team's daily maintenance and customer assistance the conference would not have had the reliable uninterrupted service it received from SSG Oxendine's team.

Throughout the exercise season the 252nd Signal Company has deployed 2-soldier MEDRETE support teams equipped with SCTACSAT. The teams have provided vital and 100% reliable communication for MEDRETEs in Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Suriname, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Each three week MEDRETE takes place far from conventional hospitals or clinic treatment centers. Medical units from across the United States deploy to these regions to provide dental, medical, and veterinary services. Highly trained Signal soldiers from the 252nd provide the required communication via SCTACSAT to the USARSO Headquarters in Puerto Rico and command and control communications at forward treatment sites and the base camp.

The 252nd Signal Company is keeping busy this year. On the horizon, the company prepares to augment the 94th Signal Company as it deploys to Antigua, Barbuda, and St. Kitts to provide communication for this year's Tradewinds exercise. Later in May, 252nd will welcome home the two deployed packages from the New Horizons missions. The OPTEMPO for the 252nd remains high throughout the spring and summer, as the soldiers and their families look ahead to July and the conclusion of another season of successful exercise support. The soldiers and leaders of this extremely focused company realize that the routine of *daily maintenance*, *supply discipline* and tough *realistic training* must continue throughout each mission's recovery phase and up to the next season of exercise support. These are the three keys to mission success and unit readiness. 252nd Signal Company's people and equipment are ever ready to deploy and support with reliable communications.



Photo provide by CSM Paul Scandrick 93rd Sig Bde

COL Gerstein promotes PFC Stein and PFC Ho to Specilist during visit to EL Salvador.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF DURING BATTALION FUND RAISER

By 2LT Mary Peebles
C Co, 67th Signal Battalion

During an annual Soccer Tournament held on FT Gordon 9 – 10 Feb this year, many young children and their supportive parents faced off on Barton Field in a number of soccer games. 67th Signal Battalion hosted a Battalion Fundraiser during this event to raise money for the Battalion Family Readiness Group and to defray the cost for junior soldiers that wanted to attend the 93d Signal Brigade Valentine's Ball held this year on 15 February.

Early on a beautiful sunny day, volunteers from each company in the battalion rose to supply children with their necessary junk food and Gatorade. The preparation and hard work from the volunteers paid off and the fund raiser was very successful. 67th raised close to \$3000.00 in two days. The money was later used to lower the cost of Valentine Ball tickets for E6s and below from \$25 to \$15 each. Also, each company was given \$300 for their Family Readiness Group fund.

The fund raiser would not have been a success without the help and support of several key people: 2LT Laws from Alpha company, SPC Motenegro from Bravo Company, SFC Mozell and SGT Stokes from Charlie Company, SPC Delione from HHC, SGT Willis and SSG Forstner from 235th, and the NCOIC SFC Botts.

Life

"..there is always inequity in life. Some men are killed in war and some men are wounded, and some men never leave the country, and some men are stationed in the Antarctic and some men are stationed in San Francisco. It is very hard in the military or personal life to assure complete equality. Life is unfair.

John F. Kennedy

Soldiers can forward AKO e-mail to other accounts

by Patrick A. Swan

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - Using an Army Knowledge Online e-mail address doesn't mean soldiers must surrender their current military or commercial e-mail accounts.

In fact, with AKO's forwarding rule, e-mails from "us.army.mil" addresses can be automatically forwarded to any other e-mail address a user selects, AKO officials explained. They said users can do this by clicking on the "personalize" button after they log on, and then choosing "user profile."

AKO officials set up the for-

warding rule because they said they realized most AKO e-mail accounts complement, rather than replace, soldiers' local post and AOL- or Hotmail-type accounts, said Harold Tucker, AKO systems architect.

"Considering how often soldiers move around," added David Hale, AKO webmaster, "it is a significant advantage for them to have one e-mail address that does not change as they move from post to post or from mission to mission.

"Having a 'us.army.mil' email address is much easier for soldiers' buddies, families and colleagues to remember than the typical installation e-mail address string," Hale said.

The Army's global e-mail directory doesn't always have a soldier's most current e-mail address, Hale said. However, he said that AKO's global e-mail directory does. "That means you stand a much greater chance of reaching the person you want to contact via e-mail," Hale said.

Also, because soldiers can gain access to their AKO accounts from any Internet terminal in the world, Hale said they can maintain communication at times they wouldn't ordinarily have any Army e-mail address, such as when they are in-between assignments or in jobs that don't provide regular Internet access.



Photo by Capt. Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.

67th SIGNAL HOSTS ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY BALL

By Staff 2LT Jerry E. Landrum
HHC, 67th Signal Battalion

On 15 Feb, the 67th Signal Battalion hosted the Annual 93rd Signal Brigade Valentine's Ball on Fort Gordon at the Gordon Club. It was a perfect setting for this special occasion and over 400 soldiers and civilians from the brigade with their significant other attended. Distinguished guest in attendance included COL and Mrs. Daniel Gerstein, Commander of the 93rd Signal Brigade; Mrs. Vivian "Bibs" Reynard, Guest Speaker; COL and Mrs. Jeffrey Foley, Chief of Staff of the Signal Center; and CSM and Mrs. Paul Scandrick, CSM of the 93rd Signal Brigade.

The event started with the traditional social hour and then dinner. Music was provided by the Fort Gordon Jazz Combo and a local DJ. Everyone was dressed to impress and the ballroom was impressively decorated. Throughout the formal portion of the night the band played festive melodies and the Gordon Club provided an excellent meal.

The highlights of the evening were performances by SSG Brown, 551st Signal Battalion who sang "Funny Valentine"; SPC Morgan, 63rd Signal Battalion; who sung a won-

derful rendition of "How Do I Live Without You" and remarks from our featured guest speaker for the evening, Mrs. Vivian "Bibs" Reynard. "Mrs. Reynard is a military spouse of over 31 years who has devoted much of her life to that of servant and advocate of the military, its families, and its way of life. Her affection for the military was extremely evident when she presented an inspiring talk about spouses who have stood along side and supported their soldiers from Molly Pitcher to today, and the important roles spouses play in the readiness of a unit.

A gauge to measure the success of such an event is by the number of people that remained after the formal portion of the ball. The majority of attendees remained and danced for several hours. Even some of the senior leadership in the brigade displayed some dance moves that would make John Travolta proud.

Special thanks to LT Miller, the Ball Coordinator; LT Riley, the Master of Ceremony, and all of the committees and personnel who assisted with the planning and setup of the events. I'm looking forward to next years ball. If you missed this year's event, definitely put the next one on your calendar.

93rd Signal Brigade Valentine's Ball

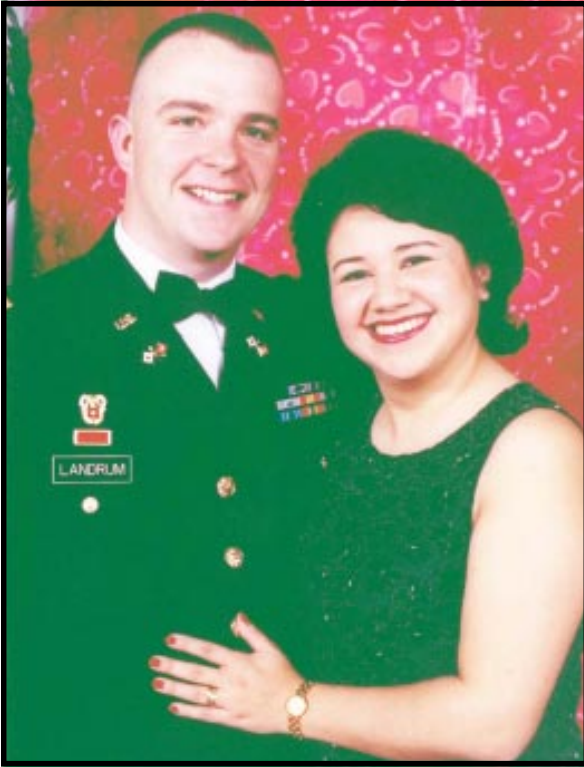


Photo by Capt. Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.
LT Jerry Landrum and his wife enjoyed the 93rd's Valentines Ball.



Photo by Capt. Shirley Tyra 93rd Sig. Bde.
CPT Kloiber and his lovely wife had a great time at the ball.



SGT Washington and SGT Patterson attended the Valentines event with SGT Ahmond and SGT Gerald Ruterford.

Tricare Dental for Reservist

By Maj William Nutter
PAO 81ST RSC

The U.S. Army Reserve has lots of reasons to smile about when it pertains to dental care! The Tricare Dental Program (TDP) now offers active duty benefits to Reserve soldiers. This benefit is offered to Selected Reserves, Individual Ready Reserves and their families.

The program is relatively new, it was offered only a year ago, last February, 2001. The program is an excellent opportunity to offer Reservists an affordable and quality dental care plan.

Lieutenant Colonel Abe Hobson, 81st Regional Support Command's Medical Plans Officer, wants every soldier to consider the program. "I am encouraging every commander and leader inform soldiers about this program," said Hobson. TDP, at a very low cost, will upgrade soldiers' dental status to be Class II for deployments, according to Hobson. The monthly premium is only \$7.95 a month for a single plan and \$19.74 for the family plan. The plan is competitive with other dental plans offered in the civilian sector and the premiums actually are lower than the 1999 premium rates.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Scott, Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel, 81st RSC is enthused about the cost savings it provides for soldiers. "For what I pay, \$7.95 a month, it is a bang for your buck. It pays

better than my primary dental provider," said Scott. "I think every Reservist should take this opportunity for its savings and its support. There is a website, and toll free number that provide excellent information and the nice thing is it is automatically deducted from your drill pay, so there is no check to write."

TDP offers dental payments up to \$1200.00 per year for each enrollee. For families that have children that require braces, TDP offers a lifetime maximum of \$1500.00 for orthodontic care.

Reservists must have at least 12 months remaining on their service contract at the time of the enrollment for eligibility. Enrolled family members must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System.

There are two types of enrollment options – single and family. The reserve sponsor may enroll only him or herself, or one family member to select the single options.

The family option is offered for two or more family members. To enroll in the program, Reservists may call United Concordia at 1-888-622-2256 to request an enrollment form. Enrollment forms may be requested on the United Concordia website, www.ucci.com.

When enrolling, new enrollees must pay first month's premium in advance to confirm coverage is in effect. Over 50,000 dentists are part of the TDP network. To locate dentists in the Reservist's area, the enrollee may call 1-800-866-8499 or visit the website. Dentist not part of the TDP network may provide dental care but are not bound by any agreement with United Concordia.

New Army command activated

The Army Accessions Command formally activated March 25 in a ceremony at Fort Monroe, Va. Gen. John N. Abrams, Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, hosted the official activation ceremony for the new command. Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Deputy Commanding General for Initial Entry Training, assumed command of the U.S. Army Accessions Command on Feb. 15, 2002.

The Army Accessions Command, headquartered at Fort Monroe, Va., will be organized around existing staff elements of Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, the U.S. Army Cadet Command, and the U.S. Army Training Center-Fort Jackson. Lt. Gen. Cavin will also continue as the Deputy Commanding General for Initial Entry Training, Training and Doctrine Command.

The Army Accessions Command will recruit and train

volunteers, teach them Army values and prepare them for their role in a transforming Army. This combined function will create seamless oversight from the time a volunteer first seeks information about an Army enlistment or career to the time he or she completes initial military training.

The Commanding General, Army Accessions Command, is now responsible for the accession of high quality young men and women into the force to meet the accessions goals for both officer and enlisted personnel. He will manage and conduct recruiting operations, develop initial military training policy, develop direct commission and appointment policy, and oversee Initial Military Training programs. The Commanding General, Army Accessions Command, will also coordinate and integrate the efforts of other external agencies involved in the accessions process.

Army News Service



Photo provided by 56th Signal Battalion

Victor Bernebe, contractor and SPC Juquetta Manning, a 94th Signal Company information systems analyst (74B), operate the 56th Signal Battalion Tactical Operation Center's TACLAN.

USARSO deploys ITC TACLANs

By MAJ Bruce Holland
56th Signal Battalion Executive Officer

The 56th Signal Battalion Information Technology Center has developed five deployable tactical computer networks to support the information management requirements of US Army South's missions.

Each of the five tactical local area network configurations has a specific mission.

The first system, built in the fall of 1999 after relocation from Panama to Puerto Rico, was configured to support the USARSO Deployable Command Post. It provides both classified and unclassified information to the UDCP staff. The unclassified system was converted in 2000 from hardwire Ethernet to wireless Ethernet to provide connectivity between the client computer workstations and the servers.

The next two systems were designed in 2000 to provide mission support to the task forces participating in the annual New Horizons missions in Central and South America as well as the Caribbean. The systems also support Tradewinds, and FA HUM missions.

Each system provides classified and unclassified data capability. These systems deploy to the task force base camp for setup, configuration and operation.

The systems connect with secure and non-secure internet protocol servers through a Strategic Tactical

Entry Point via multi-channel satellite systems provided by the 252nd Signal Company.

Each system is a self contained local area network with e-mail, and file server capability. The NIPRNET system also provides Internet capability via the satellite link.

During the summer of 2001, USARSO was given the Defense Coordinating Officer mission to provide military support to civilian authorities and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

To meet the data and communications support requirements, the ITC developed two more systems – one designated for the Puerto Rico DCO and one for the U.S. Virgin Islands DCO.

Each system can operate as a wireless or hardwired local area network or as stand-alone clients. Each client has dialup capability to connect to NIPRNET and can also connect via portable satellite terminal.

The USVI DCO system was used to support FEMA during the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The New York FEMA team was in St. Thomas, hosting a disaster training exercise, which the DCO team was attending.

The communications and data package of the system was used to provide satellite and data communications to New York and Washington, D.C. in response to the events.

FORT GORDON SPORTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2001 - AUGUST 2002



SPORT	LETTER OF INTENT DUE DATE	SEASON	CHAMPIONSHIP
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TEAM SPORT FOOTBALL

Company	24 Aug 01	5 Sep-Oct 01	1-17 Nov 01
Women	24 Aug 01	11 Sep-Oct 01	1-17 Nov 01
Morning	24 Aug 01	11 Sep-13 Oct 01	16-27 Oct 01
*Youth Football	11 Sep 01	9 Oct-21 Nov 01	register-Youth Services



BASKETBALL

Company	20 Oct 01	13 Nov 01-15 Feb 02	19-28 Feb 02
Women	20 Oct 01	13 Nov 01-15 Feb 02	19-28 Feb 02
Morning	20 Oct 01	13 Nov 01-15 Feb 02	19-28 Feb 02
Battalion	22 Feb 02	5 Mar-12 Apr 02	15-26 Apr 02
Greybeard	22 Feb 02	5 Mar-12 Apr 02	15-26 Apr 02
*Youth Basketball	8 Jan 02	4 Feb-30 Mar 02	register-Youth Services



SOCCER

Company	12 Jan 02	4 Feb-5 Apr 02	8-26 Apr 02
Morning	12 Jan 02	4 Feb-5 Apr 02	8-26 Apr 02

VOLLEYBALL

Company	7 Feb 02	5 Mar-13 Apr 02	16-27 Apr 02
Morning	7 Feb 02	12 Mar-13 Apr 02	16-27 Apr 02



SOFTBALL

Company	18 Apr 02	1 May-14 Jul 02	16-31 Jul 02
Women	18 Apr 02	1 May-15 Jun 02	18-29 Jun 02
Morning	18 Apr 02	1 May-15 Jun 02	18-29 Jun 02
Battalion	17 Jul 02	1-21 Aug 02	22-31 Aug 02
*Youth Soft/Baseball	13 Apr 02	14 May-6 Jul 02	register-Youth Services



INDIVIDUAL SPORT

TRACK & FIELD 5 Mar 02 9-13 Apr 02

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE PROGRAM Continuous Registration

ALL ARMY APPLICATIONS Call Sports Office for info. and dates

*SWIMMING LESSONS Call Indoor Pool for info., 791-8954



BOXING

Morning	1 Oct 01	1 Oct 01-28 Mar 02	Last Wed. of each month of training
Evening	1 Oct 01	1 Oct 01-28 Mar 02	

TRAINING

BOUTS

AEROBIC CLASSES For information, contact Fitness Center, 791-6872

*Registration Fees will be charged for these activities.



**Youth Services registration, 791-5104.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE
SPORTS OFFICE AT 791-6099.
email: browninw@gordon.army.mil**



In Memory Of
SFC John P. Lee
23 April 1963 - 16 January 2002



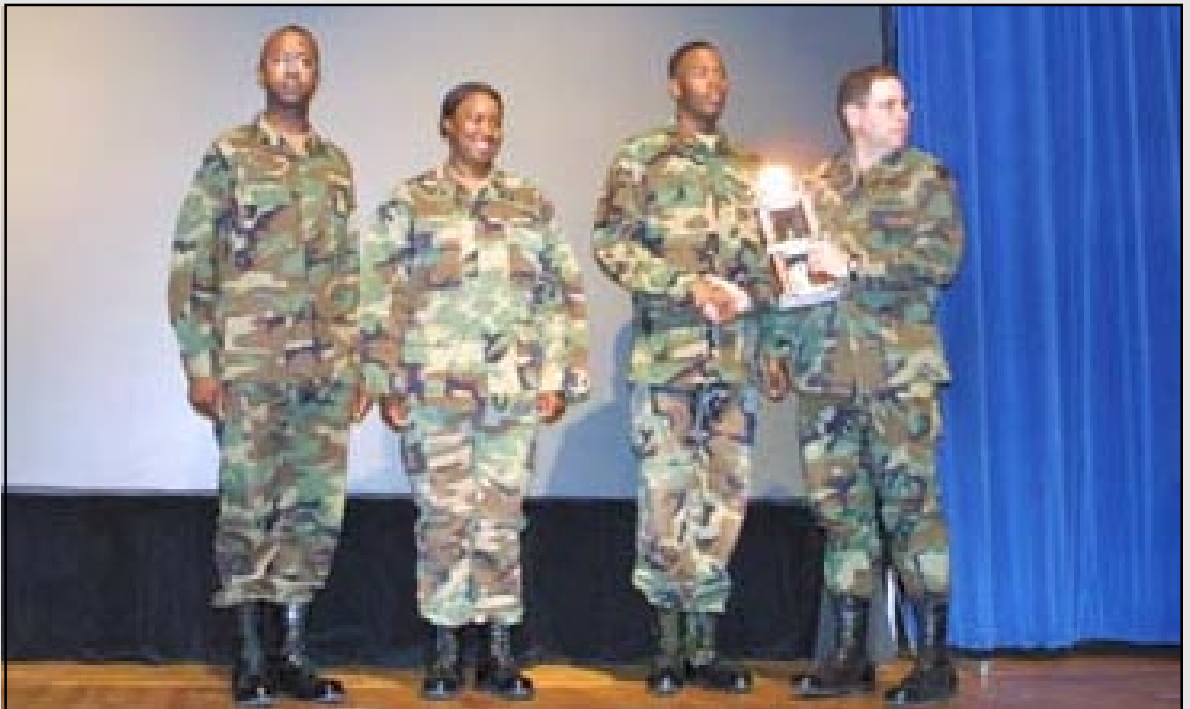
On the 16th of January, the 93rd Brigade lost a true comrade of the unit. Although SFC Lee had already PCS'd to Korea, he was still considered to be a "Lightning Warrior" for the many years he spent impacting numerous lives on Fort Gordon. He was described by all those who knew him as an excellent mentor, a faithful friend and a true professional soldier. He leaves a loving wife, Gabby, and four children - Nicole, Maria, John and Benjamin. He will be sadly missed by all those who had the opportunity to know him.

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S**Dedicated Service**

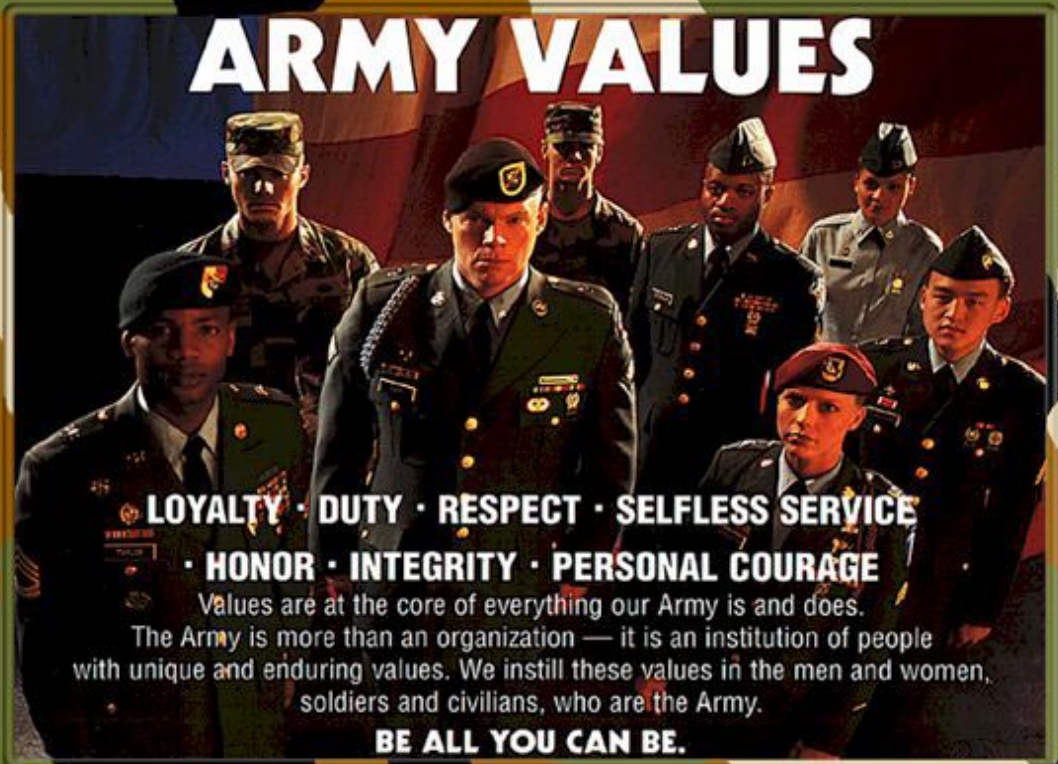
Maj. Gen. Alfred A. Valenzuela, commanding general, U.S. Army South shakes hands with Mr. Christopher J. Echols, civilian executive assistant and deputy commander of the 56th Signal Battalion. Echols received the Superior Civilian Service Award at the USARSO Honors Ceremony Feb. 28, for service from July 1, 2000 - June 31, 2001.



PV2 Christopher Anderson was selected to lend his voice to an Army recruiting commercial.



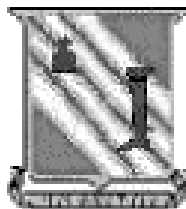
93rd Signal Brigade Commander Col. Daniel Gerstein (right) and 93rd Sig Bde Command Sergeant Major CSM Paul Scandrick present the Supply Excellence Award, for First Quarter, to SPC Tamasha Mikell and PFC Monroe Atkins of 235th Sig Bn.



The Brigade Stringer Program needs soldiers who can produce articles and photographs about unit training, social events and soldiers demonstrating Army values.

No Experience Necessary

No one will be turned away



For more info, contact:

CPT Tyra at 791-9315,
tyras@gordon.army.mil